

PROPERTY OF THE PENNA. STATE LIBRARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
CHILDREN'S BUREAU

MONTHLY RELIEF BULLETIN -- APRIL, 1932

By Anne E. Geddes

April Relief Declines 16 Per Cent from March Level

After a continuous rise of seven months, beginning in September and culminating in the March peak, relief in April showed a sharp but seasonal downturn. Decline between March and April of 16 per cent in expenditures was reported by 964 agencies or divisions of departments in 125 cities. In April, as is shown in Table 1, these agencies gave \$23,649,269 for the relief of families in their homes, as contrasted with \$28,204,908 in March and \$14,051,002 in April, 1931. Curtailment of relief was reported by every class of agency except the emergency committees and the public departments administering aid for the blind and the aged. More than average shrinkage in expenditures was reported by the general public departments and the public wage relief agencies, which show decline of 23 and 33 per cent, respectively.

Four Per Cent Drop in Families Given Outright Relief

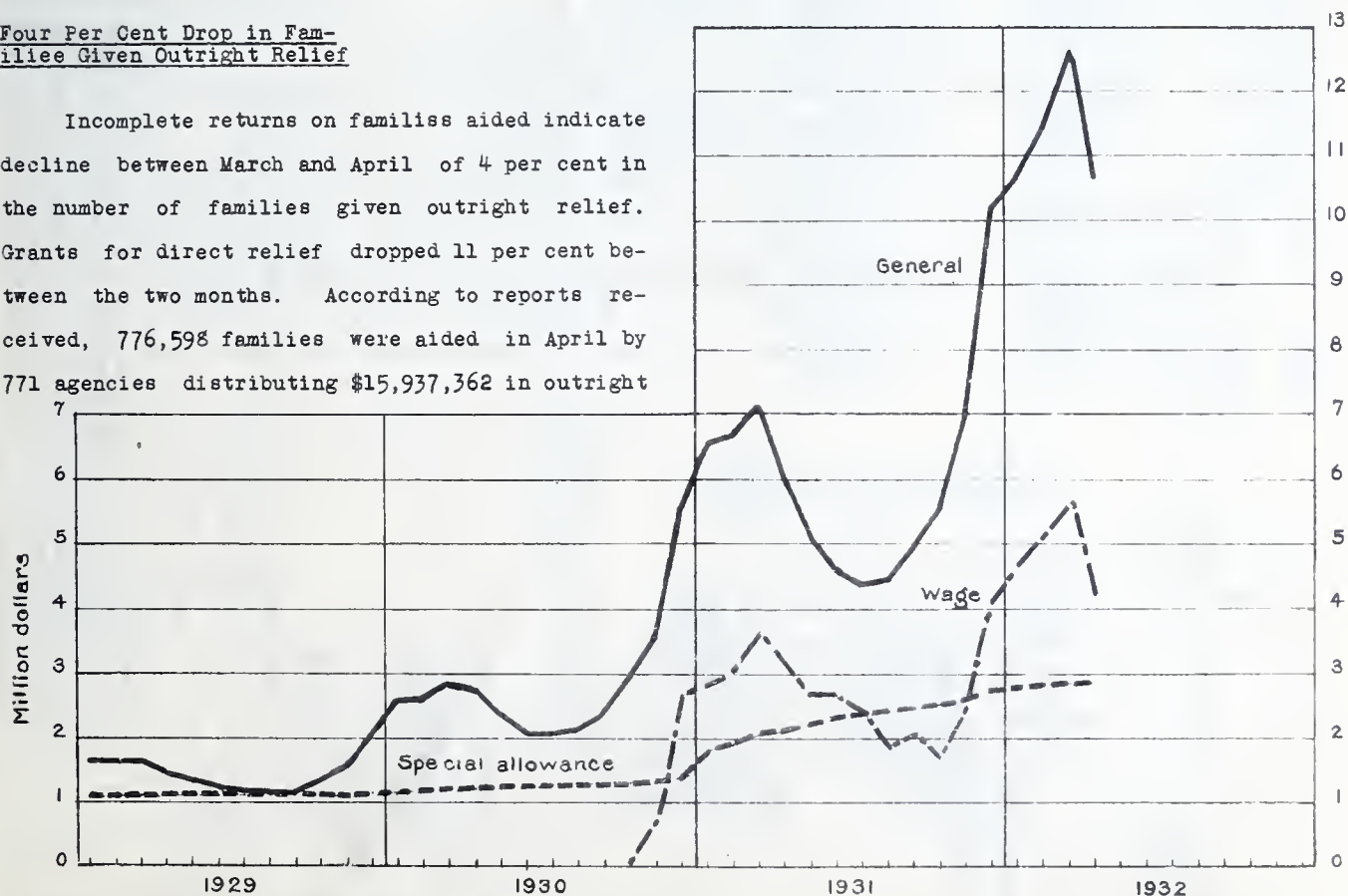
Incomplete returns on families aided indicate decline between March and April of 4 per cent in the number of families given outright relief. Grants for direct relief dropped 11 per cent between the two months. According to reports received, 776,598 families were aided in April by 771 agencies distributing \$15,937,362 in outright

relief. These same agencies distributed \$17,811,005 to 810,199 families in March and \$8,990,657 to 408,230 families in April, 1931. The figures reported do not represent an unduplicated count of families aided. In certain cities some families are obtaining relief from more than one agency and thus are included in reports more than once.

Curves Reflect Rising Relief Costs and April Downturn

For three major groups of agencies, the curves in the diagram below trace the course of relief expenditures for 40 months from January, 1929, to April, 1932. The first 9 months of this period antedate the collapse of the stock market, which brought the depression in its wake. Each of the curves in the diagram is based on a carefully selected sample.

In the general curve the following types of
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Amount of Relief 247 General, 87 Special-Allowance and 42 Wage-Relief Agencies-January, 1929, to April, 1932

Table 1. - Number of families aided and amount of relief given in April, 1932, and comparison with April, 1931, and March, 1932

964 agencies or divisions of departments in 125 cities of 50,000 or more population

Type of agency	Number of agencies	Families aided			Amounts given			Per cent change from March, 1932, to April, 1932		Per cent change from April, 1931, to April, 1932	
		April 1931	March 1932	April 1932	April 1931	March 1932	April 1932	Families	Amounts	Families	Amounts
Agencies reporting both families and amounts											
Outright relief											
Public department											
General relief ^{1/}	88	156,310	351,077	316,768	\$3,437,464	\$8,127,548	\$6,291,427	-10	-23	103	83
Veterans' relief	34	16,421	39,461	40,667	488,467	1,112,472	1,085,186	3	-2	148	122
Special allowance groups											
Mothers' aid	88	34,908	40,814	41,203	1,642,917	1,920,794	1,909,347	1	-1	18	16
Old-age aid	31	21,774	40,493	41,063	677,506	1,140,019	1,154,599	1	1	89	70
Aid for the blind	32	4,926	5,214	5,254	113,103	120,000	120,743	1	1	7	7
Private agencies ^{2/}											
Nonsectarian family societies	117	91,704	192,954	183,841	1,652,766	3,311,053	2,778,440	-5	-16	100	68
Jewish agencies	64	8,295	12,287	12,814	291,593	416,883	416,632	4	(3)	54	43
Catholic agencies	51	19,314	24,213	22,626	264,364	335,913	304,886	-7	-9	17	15
Veterans' agencies	87	3,537	6,928	6,557	52,051	84,874	81,959	-5	-3	85	57
Emergency committees	20	2,138	59,920	68,923	18,931	901,754	1,480,669	15	64	3124	7721
Salvation Army	87	37,320	26,627	26,569	216,949	216,777	194,611	(3)	-10	-29	-10
Other	72	11,583	10,211	10,313	134,546	122,918	118,863	1	-3	-11	-12
Total, exclusive of special-allowances and Salvation Army ^{4/}	5/533	309,302	697,051	662,509	\$6,340,182	\$14,413,415	\$12,558,062	-5	-13	114	98
Total	5/771	408,230	810,199	776,598	\$8,990,657	\$17,811,005	\$15,937,362	-4	-11	90	77
Agencies reporting amounts only											
Outright relief											
Public department	54	-	-	-	\$1,220,936	\$1,688,372	\$1,973,974	-	-	-	-
Private agencies	41	-	-	-	610,799	2,381,858	1,076,282	-	-	-	-
Wage relief											
Public department	57	-	-	-	1,603,382	4,191,468	2,821,724	-	-33	-	76
Private agencies	41	-	-	-	1,625,228	2,132,205	1,839,927	-	-14	-	13
Total wage relief	98	-	-	-	3,228,610	6,323,673	4,661,651	-	-26	-	44
Total outright and wage relief reported by all agencies	5/964	-	-	-	\$14,051,002	\$28,204,908	\$23,649,269	-	-16	-	68

^{1/} These figures may include some mothers' aid, some aid to the blind, and some veterans' relief.

^{2/} In several cities private agencies are administering some public funds.

^{3/} Percentage is less than one.

^{4/} The special allowance agencies are excluded from this total because they are not subject to seasonal variation; the Salvation Army is excluded because of the large volume of its special holiday relief in certain months.

^{5/} This figure is larger than the sum of the individual agencies, as organizations reporting more than one class of relief are counted more than once.

(continued from page 1)

agencies are included: General public departments, public and private agencies serving veterans, non-sectarian family societies, Jewish agencies, Catholic agencies, emergency committees, and miscellaneous organizations. Throughout the depression the general curve shows a striking upward trend with marked seasonal changes.

The special-allowance curve records the expenditures of 87 offices administering mothers' aid and aid to the aged but does not include relief to the blind, which is ordinarily granted quarterly or semiannually. This curve mounts steadily over the period, but the rate of increase is greatly accelerated in 1931 when the old-age laws of New York and Massachusetts became operative. The special-allowance agencies are not subject to seasonal variation.

In the wage curve 42 work-relief agencies administering both public and private funds are represented. Although wage relief was practically nonexistent before the fall of 1930, it has since become one of the major types of emergency aid. Lay-off of large numbers of men engaged on work-relief projects is indicated by the sharp slump in the wage curve in April.

Decline in April Relief Reported by 78 of 93 Cities

The approach of spring was accompanied by reduction in relief expenditures in the large majority of cities. Of 93 cities for which data are presented in Table 2 on the following page, 77 show decline from March to April. Twenty cities reduced expenditures from 1 to 9 per cent; 25 from 10 to 19 per cent; 19 from 20 to 29 per cent; and 13 reported reduction of more than 30 per cent. For the group the median percentage of decline was 13 per cent, in contrast to the 16 per cent reduction based on the aggregate figures of 964 agencies in Table 1.

Reductions Drastic in Many Cities

Drastic cuts in April relief were reported by many cities. Relief in New York dropped from \$8,-308,377 in March to \$6,502,132 in April. Other cities in New York State--New Rochelle, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers--also made stringent reductions in April. Philadelphia's relief for the month amounted to less than half of the March to-

tal, tumbling from \$1,503,548 to \$727,046. Other cities reporting striking retrenchment are: Akron, Sioux City, Topeka, Wichita, Baltimore, Houston, Denver, and Portland, Oreg.

Expansion over April, 1931, Reported by 82 Cities

Despite the sharp downward turn in April, comparison with April, 1931, reveals expansion between the two years in all but 8 cities. For the 89 cities submitting complete reports in these two months the median percentage of increase in relief is 87. April, 1932, expenditures in five cities--New Rochelle, Utica, Oak Park, Wilmington, and Mobile--were more than 250 per cent larger than in April a year ago. On the other hand, 8 cities distributed less relief this April than last April. The larger of these cities are Philadelphia, Detroit, and Los Angeles.

Incomplete Reports Received from 32 Cities

Incomplete reports for April were received from the 32 cities below. These cities are excluded from Table 2 but are represented in Table 1.

<u>New England</u>	Springfield, Ohio
Cambridge	
Somerville	<u>West North Central</u>
	Duluth
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>	Des Moines
Albany	Kansas City
Bayonne	<u>South Atlantic</u>
Camden	Richmond
The Oranges	Atlanta
Jersey City	Jacksonville
Newark	Miami
Paterson	
Trenton	<u>East South Central</u>
Altoona	Nashville
Harrisburg	
Reading	<u>West South Central</u>
<u>East North Central</u>	New Orleans
Canton	Oklahoma City
Youngstown	El Paso
Fort Wayne	
Indianapolis	<u>Mountain and Pacific</u>
Flint	Salt Lake City
Grand Rapids	

Large Quantities of Federal Flour Distributed in Many Cities

Supplementary reports received on the number of pounds of Federal flour distributed indicate that in many cities large quantities of flour were made available to indigent families in April. For the sake of uniformity the value of this flour, which was released by the Federal Farm Board, has been excluded from reports on amount of relief given; if it were included, the figures of some of the smaller cities would be significantly larger.

(continued on page 6)

Table 2. - Expenditures for outright and wage relief in April, 1932, and comparison with April, 1931, and March, 1932 -- 93 cities

The cities included in this table are those for which reports are believed to be complete or substantially complete. Unreported emergency relief in important amounts may have been given in some cities. These figures are presented subject to revision.

City and geographical division	Agencies or divisions of departments reporting	Amount of outright and wage relief		Per cent increase or decrease from Mar., 1932 to Apr., 1932	Per cent increase or decrease from Apr., 1931 to Apr., 1932	Amount of wage relief		
		April 1931	March 1932			April 1932	April 1931	March 1932
<u>New England</u>								
Portland	6	(1)	\$27,420	\$20,322	-26	(1)	-	-
Boston	13	\$646,703	1,300,752	1,207,828	-7	87	-	-
Brockton 2/	9	28,994	45,283	66,161	46	128	-	-
Fall River	7	44,547	120,199	90,604	-25	103	-	-
Lawrence	7	(1)	60,062	62,912	5	(1)	-	-
Lowell	6	48,808	70,029	68,009	-3	39	-	-
Lynn	9	61,044	97,056	108,167	11	77	-	-
Malden	10	25,768	47,671	45,157	-5	75	-	-
New Bedford	7	63,815	91,880	91,784	(3)	44	-	-
Newton	9	10,720	27,711	29,084	5	171	9,361	9,360
Springfield	13	101,915	182,914	169,580	-7	66	-	-
Worcester	8	126,965	224,627	196,849	-12	55	-	-
Providence	11	113,934	152,874	170,102	11	49	-	-
Bridgeport 4/	9	37,710	114,725	119,840	4	218	60,000	89,678
Hartford	9	95,964	217,496	177,997	-18	85	12,547	57,306
New Britain	8	33,107	96,788	101,558	5	207	22,013	51,819
New Haven	10	87,763	123,311	121,415	-2	38	55,000	5,982
								64,783
<u>Middle Atlantic</u>								
Buffalo	19	332,817	1,094,760	1,004,521	-8	202	-	293,272
New Rochelle	8	5,383	42,890	29,919	-30	456	-	13,139
New York	28	3,656,706	8,308,377	6,502,132	-22	78	1,361,390	2,746,306
Niagara Falls	10	51,047	149,524	130,972	-12	157	15,000	54,380
Rochester	11	295,848	526,631	406,643	-23	38	48,941	38,566
Syracuse	13	85,101	332,775	259,021	-22	204	-	50,473
Utica	14	29,616	109,827	108,983	-1	268	326	40,620
Yonkers	10	44,640	209,121	106,786	-49	139	-	4,578
Allentown	3	23,039	46,026	44,067	-4	91	-	-
Bethlehem 5/	4	8,798	15,151	15,904	5	134	-	-
Chester	11	18,311	34,763	27,086	-22	48	700	-
Erie	7	24,039	76,785	64,652	-16	169	-	-
Lancaster	6	11,635	18,349	15,604	-15	34	-	-
Philadelphia	15	815,836	1,503,548	727,046	-52	-11	223,100	-
Pittsburgh	11	326,466	839,456	676,772	-19	107	140,000	194,600
Scranton	5	28,037	48,350	52,469	9	87	-	-
Wilkes-Barre	5	41,406	117,235	124,379	6	200	-	-
<u>East North Central</u>								
Akron	11	40,942	92,814	64,683	-30	58	-	-
Cincinnati	15	148,364	274,207	248,501	-9	67	34,500	66,192
Cleveland	9	330,026	547,171	494,412	-10	50	45,858	-
Columbus	14	62,227	115,683	125,144	8	101	-	61,431
Dayton	11	47,660	103,371	85,313	-17	79	18,553	10,082
Toledo	5	108,172	126,731	112,774	-11	4	24,425	-
Evansville	4	22,701	51,953	39,286	-24	73	-	3,615
South Bend	6	24,325	51,223	50,074	-2	106	-	-
Terre Haute	6	8,273	15,685	15,489	-1	87	-	-
Chicago	15	776,760	2,615,305	2,514,970	-4	224	29,907	33,896
Chicago 4/	4	6,652	22,319	20,757	-7	212	-	-
Green Bay	4	13,655	26,103	20,366	-22	49	1,360	-

Springfield, Ill. 4/	17	11,121	15,004	14,509	-3	24	2,018	414,360	-	392,555
Detroit	17	1,331,796	1,226,672	991,017	-19	-36	-	-	-	-
Pontiac	9	75,709	118,010	101,323	-14	-34	-	-	-	-
Saginaw	4	52,716	47,952	46,564	-3	-12	-	-	-	-
Kenosha	8	34,330	72,366	72,091	(3)	-110	-	-	-	-
Madison	4	13,867	37,575	42,298	13	205	-	-	-	-
Milwaukee	10	377,024	978,237	766,441	-22	103	114,250	234,485	106,877	-
Racine	8	40,816	93,702	81,517	-13	100	-	1,376	2,567	-
<u>West North Central</u>										
Minneapolis	10	85,544	288,435	240,892	-16	182	-	(6) 12,571	(6) 11,884	-
St. Paul	12	39,247	127,348	104,226	-18	166	-	-	-	-
Sioux City	11	7,641	35,332	20,157	-43	164	-	11,971	-	-
Kansas City, Mo.	8	117,274	100,029	87,276	-13	-26	71,442	-	-	-
St. Louis	12	112,389	258,670	252,621	-2	125	7,835	-	-	-
Omaha 4/	8	16,656	47,807	33,899	-29	104	-	-	-	-
Topeka	8	12,643	36,335	14,478	-60	15	4,292	28,224	7,221	-
Wichita	9	12,426	36,971	22,230	-40	79	-	25,082	9,850	-
<u>South Atlantic</u>										
Wilmington	11	34,084	136,221	140,792	3	313	-	61,740	79,900	-
Baltimore 4/	8	89,049	402,064	263,362	-34	196	-	-	-	-
Washington	12	43,348	138,872	114,416	-18	164	1,634	53,796	26,679	-
Norfolk	6	3,031	8,804	5,353	-39	77	-	-	-	-
Roanoke	4	3,036	4,511	3,581	-21	18	-	-	-	-
Huntington	4	2,616	5,840	3,961	-32	51	-	-	-	-
Asheville 4/	3	2, (1)	9,296	7,570	-19	(1)	(1)	-	-	-
Winston-Salem	2	10,016	6,415	5,122	-20	-49	-	-	-	-
Charleston, S. C.	8	1,192	3,432	3,052	-11	156	-	30	32	-
<u>East South Central</u>										
Louisville 4/	9	32,815	65,327	60,592	-7	85	7,065	24,973	21,976	-
Knoxville	5	8,732	21,603	16,092	-26	84	-	18,936	14,012	-
Memphis	7	16,229	11,293	9,086	-20	-44	-	-	-	-
Birmingham	5	46,801	98,142	82,506	-16	76	35,167	5,487	5,953	-
Mobile	4	572	8,208	6,366	-22	1013	-	5,505	3,508	-
<u>West South Central</u>										
Shreveport 4/	8	5,002	4,794	4,326	-10	-14	-	-	-	-
Tulsa	2	9,374	26,107	20,585	-21	120	-	-	-	-
Dallas	6	13,219	43,330	38,487	-11	191	-	23,100	26,386	-
Fort Worth	4	13,412	16,603	15,939	-4	19	-	-	-	-
Houston	8	9,781	23,472	13,955	-41	43	-	-	-	-
San Antonio	5	3,227	11,152	8,091	-27	151	-	5,361	4,125	-
<u>Mountain and Pacific</u>										
Denver	13	29,442	154,691	79,746	-48	171	-	69,035	14,729	-
Seattle	12	(1)	228,831	200,238	-12	(1)	6,856	-	1,337	-
Tacoma	7	15,774	26,725	32,301	21	105	-	-	-	-
Portland	7	81,316	306,067	194,283	-37	139	47,000	270,287	132,868	-
Berkeley	7	19,305	42,521	36,220	-15	88	1,197	7,997	5,708	-
Los Angeles	9	988,580	677,623	773,218	-14	-22	485,736	34,357	41,553	-
Oakland	8	133,038	174,439	208,429	19	57	-	-	-	-
Sacramento	8	27,370	24,493	24,493	-11	33	-	-	-	-
San Diego	10	44,610	95,434	73,864	-23	66	(6) 3,005	(6) 22,000	(6) 13,088	-
San Francisco	19	401,056	494,095	512,189	4	28	291,904	204,000	211,107	-

1/ Figures are not available.

2/ Figures for March and April, 1932, represent bills paid in the month and do not reflect the volume of relief given in the month.

3/ Percentage is less than one.

4/ Reports of one or more important agencies are known to be missing.

5/ In April, 1931, pay rolls for work on sewer and water mains were \$25,000. As this is believed to have been ordinary public work rather than relief work it is not included here.

6/ Work relief, administered as an incidental part of the program of one or more agencies, is not included here.

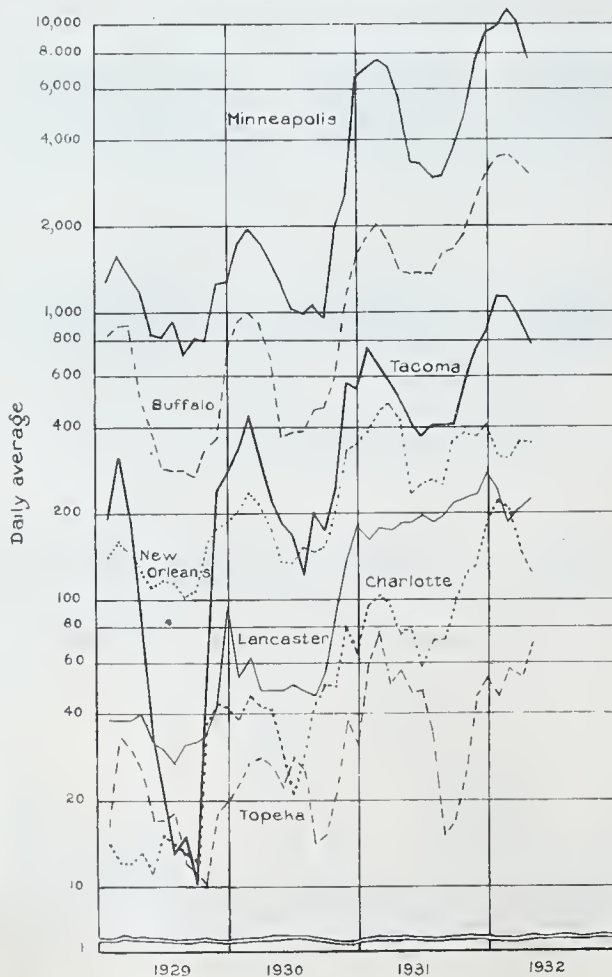
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Meals Decline 14 Per Cent and
Lodgings 8 Per Cent in April

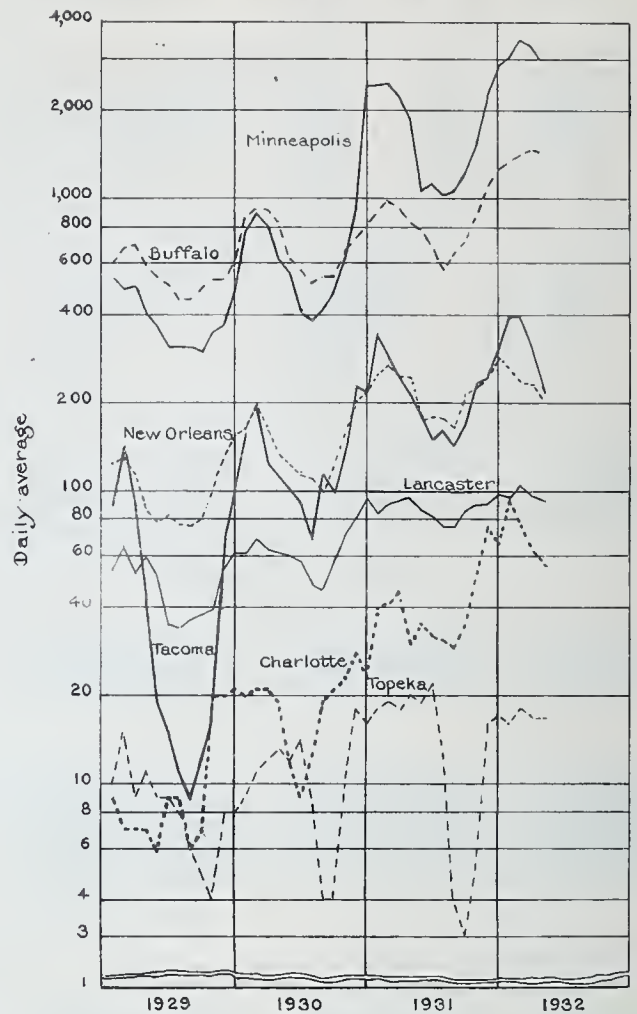
In April, for the second consecutive month, decline in the number of meals and lodgings provided to the homeless and transient was reported by 169 agencies in 64 cities. The daily averages of meals served declined 14 per cent, while the number of lodgings furnished nightly dropped 8 per cent. Comparison with 1931, however, shows a gain between last April and this April of 72 per cent in meal service and of 63 per cent in lodgings. As is shown in the tabulation below, 1,178,882 meals and 423,934 night's lodgings were provided in April by the 64 reporting cities.

Volume of service	April 1931	March 1932	April 1932
Meals:			
Total	685,650	1,423,159	1,178,882
Daily average	22,855	45,908	39,296
Night's lodgings:			
Total	259,344	478,436	423,934
Daily average	8,645	15,433	14,131

Trend of Meals Served to Homeless
and Transient Persons
Seven cities



Trend of Night's Lodgings Provided
To Homeless and Transient Persons
Seven cities



Trend of Meals and Lodgings
Traced for Seven Cities

In the two accompanying diagrams, which are plotted on ratio backgrounds showing relative rather than absolute increases or decreases, the trend of meals and lodgings since January, 1929, is charted for 7 cities. These cities are widely scattered, and range in size from Buffalo with 573,076 population to Lancaster with a population of only 59,949.

Striking seasonal variations underlie the sharp upward movement which characterizes both sets of curves. In Topeka the peak load for both types of service occurred in the winter of 1930-31. The New Orleans curve representing meals served also reached its highest level in that winter. In the remaining five cities--Minneapolis, Buffalo, Tacoma, Lancaster, and Charlotte--the volume of meals and lodgings was greater in the winter just passed than in any of the three preceding winters.